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### Modern Science in Bible Lands.

*Modern Science in Bible Lands.* By Sir J. W. Dawson. New York: Harper and Brothers. 12mo, pp. 606. Price, \$2.00.

Any work by a man so well known in the spheres of science and education as Principal Dawson is entitled to careful reading and consideration. The book before us is written in the conviction that while the Bible is not a text-book of science, its statements upon scientific matters are remarkably free from errors, remarkably in accordance with the teachings of the best modern science. The idea is fairly presented by this quotation: "Science must in the future tend more and more to the vindication of the truth of the early books of the Bible from the attacks of a vexatious verbal criticism." The book, as the author says, is not a "Reconciliation of Science and Religion," but a series of essays on a variety of subjects in which modern science seems to explain and illustrate the old book. The Bible lands treated are Italy, Egypt and Palestine.

The introductory chapter merely sustains by examples the proposition that the Bible in its statements *is* scientific. A sketch of Italian Geology, a history of Vesuvius and its eruptions, and an outline of the geological theory of volcanic action is given under the title "The Fire Belt of Southern Europe." Two chapters of considerable value are those on "The Haunts and Habits of Primitive Man," and "Early Man in Genesis." Dr. Dawson believes that Palæolithic Man—Palæocosmic as he calls him—the man of the river gravels and of the caves, is ante-diluvian. He maintains that there is a break in the Archæological Records and one in the Geological Record, and that this break is due to the post-glacial flood (=Noachian deluge). The view is sustained with considerable force and skill. Several new terms are suggested, Palæocosmic Man and Palanthropic Age for ante-diluvian man and time, and Neocosmic Man and Neanthropic Age for post-diluvian. Some important strictures on archæological modes of nomenclature and reasoning, already presented in his *Fossil Men*, are here emphasized. The Bible statements of the Dead Sea and the destruction of the cities of the plain are among the special topics considered.

No scientist is likely to agree with Dr. Dawson on all points nor are his explanations always likely to suit his theological readers. The book will however do much to stimulate investigation and suggest profitable lines of thought and study. It is an honest and earnest work and can not but do good. Even if we were obliged to differ from our author in every conclusion he reaches we should still consider the work one of great value.

### The Pastoral Epistles.

*The Pastoral Epistles.* 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus. By J. F. Plummer, D.D. "The Expositor's Library." New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. Price, \$1.50.

The volumes of this excellent series of expository lectures on the books of the Bible are becoming numerous. Among the latest is the work of the learned scholar, the Master of University College, Dublin, upon the pastoral epistles. The task is well done. The volume is characterized by a larger admission of scholarly and critical material than former issues of the same series have exhibited. The learning is not paraded, however, and it is thoroughly trustworthy. This portion of Scripture does not yield so readily to expository treatment as do some other books and the practical teachings are limited in their range. The author has succeeded in compressing into these pages much valuable material, and, apart from certain ecclesiastical views which he holds and naturally advances, has produced a book useful to all students of the Bible.